

MAR 13 1924

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1 *Stoodgates* ✓
1 *Photoplay in seven reels* ✓
1 *Story and scenario by L. Case Russell* ✓
1 *Directed by George Irving* ✓
1 *Author of photoplay (under Sec. 62)*
1 *Lowell Film Productions Inc. of the U.S.*

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FLOODGATES

MAR 13 1924

By.... L. Case Russell.

.....Brief Synopsis.....

Dave Trask, foreman of Bassett's lumber-mill, is used by Bassett to get landowners about Bassett Lake to sign a paper giving him the right to raise the dam. Dave's popularity is the reason for his neighbors taking his advice. Even Sumner, distrusting Bassett, signs because he has such faith in Dave.

Bassett and his secretary, Morton, are scheming to get control of the land because they know it is to be condemned and bought up by a big company. Bassett raises the water, flooding the land, then, after Dave has protested as spokesman for his neighbors, offers to buy all the land, pretending to be doing so as their friend. Dave doesn't want to sell, but is persuaded to by his wife, who hates the farm.

Unknown to Dave she has sold a strip of land to Bassett..He has her receipt for an amount in excess of its worth.

Tom Bassett, ~~husband~~ nephew of the mill-owner, is engaged to Dave's sister, Ruth. Tom is a speed demon, his uncle's wealth and power protecting him when he hits "Goofy" Ladue. The latter, a half-wit, is discharged from the mill, and goes to work for Dave.

Dave, urged by Alice and believing Bassett's assertion that he is doing the landowners a kindness, persuades them to sell.... all but Sumner. He refuses, and goes to Albany to consult his lawyer. There he learns that Bassett has bought up the land for a fifth of its value, to sell to the Power Company.

Meanwhile, Tom has been the means of crippling little Peggy, Dave's only child. Dave orders him off the place, telling Ruth she can have nothing to do with him. He even tell "Goofy" Ladue

to shoot Tom if he ventures onto the place in his absence.

Tom is heart-broken at the separation, but Ruth feels she must obey her brother. Tom declares he will never drive his speedster again. Sumner persuades Dave to go with him where the Power Company surveyors are at work. Dave is forced to realize he has been tricked into acting as Bassett's cat's-paw. He starts for the mill, bent on forcing Bassett to return the deeds or pay full value for the land.

Meanwhile Regan, a sorehead, has led the landowners to the mill, where Morton has told him Dave is in league with the Power Company, showing the receipt from Alice Trask, proving she has received full value for her land. Regan leads the men to square accounts with Dave. They meet Dave on his way to see Bassett. Taunted beyond endurance, Dave gives Regan a beating, chases the fleeing Morton, forces him to admit he lies, then demands that Bassett do the right thing by his neighbors. Bassett's reply is to pull a gun and order them all back to their holes. Dave's patience is at an end. He seizes the gun, forces Bassett to get into his own car, drives to the dam, sees that a charge is set, his intention being to blow up the dam and destroy the Bassett home.

Meanwhile Tom has read in the daily paper that the famous Hungarian surgeon, Jan Vedos, is in Albany. He jumps into his car and rushes to Albany. Ruth sees him, and thinks he has broken his promise. He practically kidnaps the surgeon, and dashes back. Dr. Vedos cannot operate without electric light, and the Bassett house is the only one equipped. So Tom leaves the doctor and goes for the child. Ruth and Alice refuse to admit him, and "Goofy", delighted at the chance for revenge, shoots at him, wounding him in the shoulder.

Alice at last listens and when she hears there is a chance for her child to be cured, gladly goes with Tom, Ruth joining them.

Meanwhile Dave is telling Bassett to look his last at his home, Ruth's fat lover, Sliver, running to warn the housekeeper to get out, is horrified to learn the Trask family are in the house, Peggy undergoing an operation. He and Ruth run to stop Dave blowing up the dam. They are too late. Just as they reach him it goes. Dave rushes to rescue his child. He carries her on a mattress, the raging waters creeping about them as they get to high land. Tom has gone back for the doctor's valuable instruments. ~~Faint~~ from loss of blood, he is trapped in the house, fainting on a balcony which later is torn away. Bassett, frantic as his nephew's plight begs Dave to save him. Ruth attempts to reach the house, but fails. Dave goes to the rescue. He and Tom are swept almost to the brink of the ledge, when Dave rescues him.

Bassett, grateful and humbled, is ready to do what is right, when he receives his beloved nephew back at Dave's hands, and Dave's gratitude for Tom's ~~own~~ act in restoring his child makes him willing to let the past be forgotten.

END..

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